Eldridge, Iowa
March 13, 1950

Mr. W.F. Stipe
Clarinda, Iowa

Dear Mr. Stipe:

In reply to your letter of March 11, I would say that we do not have a contract with the Scott County Board of Supervisors ~~for library service~~. The Scott County Board has made an appropriation for library service to the people of Scott County who do not already have such service. That includes everyone living outside of Davenport and Bettendorf. This has been done in accordance with the county library law, Chapter 193, Acts of the 52d General Assembly as ammended by Chapter 163, Acts of the 53d General Assembly. The people of Scott County presented their petition to the Board of Supervisors as stipulated in the law, and the proposition was then prsented to the general public in the regular election in 1948. It was passed by the voters of the county.

The Board of Supervisors then appointed a library board composed of nine members, also as stipulated in the law (the law says the board may be composed of 5,7, or 9 members) reperesenting the rural areas of Scott County. There are three women on the board, all of them housewives living in small towns in the county; four of the six men on the board are farmers; one is a business man in one of the small rural towns; and the other is the manager of the Great Lakes Pipe Line station in Scott County, located at Dixon. They represent all sections of the county. The Scott County Library is set up in Scott County just as the Davenport Public Library is set up in the city of Davenport - or the Clarinda Public Library, in the city of Clarinda.

The Library Board employed a trained librarian, (your correspondent) with experience in county library work, to organize and direct the county library. They took a five year lease on a building in Eldridge, which is centrally located in the county and will be ready to put the bookmobile, which is being taken over from the demonstration which put over the library in the county, into operation soon after the first of April when money appropriated will become available.

In accordance with the law, the library board met and estimated the expenses of getting a good library service started in the county, figured out what would be the apportionment to be collected from each rural community in the county and from the farming areas, presented the budget to the County Board of Supervisors at their July meeting in 1949, as required by the law, and the supervisors appropriated the money to be made available from taxes collected in 1950. The amount levied, in mills, is slightly more than .9 of one mill - the legal limit is 2 mills - and it is yielding, this year, approximately thirty-eight thousand dollars.

As you can see, the set-up in Scott County is completely different from that of Page County. We have a County Library, a far more satisfactory method of service to the rural people of Scott County, we feel, (and the experiences of other county libraries will bear us out in this) than the old contract type of service.

I trust that this letter has given you the information you seek, and if I can be of any further help to you or the people of Page County, I shall be very happy to do so. I might add that Woodbury and Jasper counties have also voted successfully for a county library in their counties.

Yours very truly,

Elizabeth B. Hage
Librarian
Scott County Library